THE STATE JOURNAL

OPPICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA

BY FRANK P. MACLENNAN.

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Report.

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paper.

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Weather Indications. Washington, May 22.—Forecast till 8 p. m. Wednesday: For Kansas—Generally fair; variable winds.

MRS. LEASE will not trust the tyrant man even when bearing gifts.

Even the rivers have caught the spirit of hoarding and are filling up their banks.

WHILE Governor Waite is "swinging be careful lest he lose a wheel.

CONGRESSMAN BRYAN it appears declines a renomination not because he

A snow in Kentucky about the time for mint juleps to be coming on will upset the calculations of every bartender in the state.

Ir must be a matter of great chagrin to Oklahoma, that two editors or any one else should fire ten shots at each other without doing any damage.

SENATOR KYLE said he told Mr. Voorhees that a man was offering \$15,000 for then. This is an important omission.

COXEY, Browne and Jones got twenty days in jail for displaying a device, but Buttz made a tender of bribes to several senators before he was even informed on.

THE treasury gold reserve is now down to \$83,000,000. By the time Cleveland and his party get back from fishing

THE crank who has been after Mrs. Lease has failed to fulfill his promise and now the country is open to the from this city. Judging from evidence dangerous possibility of her becoming adduced at the recent investigation held president.

IF Coxey had carried a device in the shape of a check for \$15,000 he would have had an elegant "investigation with closed doors," instead of a vulgar police court trial.

Johnstown's second visitation by a flood is really heaping misfortune upon that place. It would no doubt have been the one of 1889.

MR. GOODNIGHT of the Third Kentucky district, is the latest of the crowd of Democratic congressmen to decline a renomination. Mr. Goodnight sees that it would be all day with him.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to secure the cession of the Erie canal to the general government. As the scheme is not being engineered by the Populists nothing like paternalism is discovered in it.

THE earlier hour of 10 o'clock for beginning business in the senate, found few members present. Anything that api maches business customs, even if it be only hours, is naturally distasteful to senutors

A BOUQUET of roses inscribed to the next president was placed on Mr. Bland's desk in the house yesterday. Remembering that Mr. Bland is a Democrat the irony of the words cannot but seem excessive and undeserved.

THE strong following of Billy Buchan for the congressional nomination in the Second d strict doesn't indicate that some of the people of the country are sufficiently disgusted with congress to want to better its membership.

A committee from Atlanta is now in Washington soliciting aid from congress for an international exhibition to be held in Atlanta next year. The committee could secure no more colossal side-show as a drawing card than congress itself.

T. V. POWDERLY has been unceremoniously expelled from the Knights of Labor. Nearly every man who has been for years the head of a great labor organization is able to retire without feeling any particular need of help as a workingman.

EMILE HENRI, the Paris anarchist, was executed yesterday shouting "Vive l'Anarchie" to the last; If the French would only make it impossible for the anarchists to talk, the punishment of the guillotine would be nothing in comparison

WHY DO WE PERMIT IT? Frank G. Carpenter, the well known raveler, writes from Hankow, China:

The silver question is a far more important matter out here in Asia than it has ever been in America. The Japanese are trying to uphold their end of the financial question by raising their prices, but the five hundred odd millions of Chinese do their business in copper cash on a silver basis, and the cost of their important in property double what it their imports is now just double what it was a few years ago. I cashed \$50 in gold the other day and received \$100 in sold for silver, and the prices must, of course, be doubled for the merchants to come out even. The prices of labor and of Chinese products have not risen, and the thousands and millions of Chinese farmers who are now coming to the cities to buy their supplies of cottons and other for-eign things are charged double prices. They cannot understand it, and they won't pay them. They think they are being cheated and they won't buy at all. They simply say they can't afford the goods, and they go back home and cut up their old gowns into pants for the little girls and petticoats for the boys. The result will be a great falling off in China's imports from Europe and A merira, and it will act as a sort of protective tariff to depress production. The empire now has a foreign trade of something like \$300,000,000 a year.

Thus we see that the conspiracy of the gold plutocrats to destroy the silver currency of the world not only affects America and India, but it strikes at the prosperity of the whole world. Whole Asian populations will perish of starvation, no doubt, before the full results of the conspiracy are ended. We perhaps can not blame the Chinese and Hindoos for their ignorance of what causes their misery, but what are we to say of the dense stupidity of the American blockheads who allow the Rothschilds and their allies in Wall street to force them into poverty and wreck their business? It is an im-'round the circle" in Colorado he should | putation against our intelligence as Americans to permit such a plot to be carried through.

ATLANTA Constitution: There are proloves the house less, but the senate more. | fessed bimetallists who pretend that this republic, more powerful in every way way than England and continental Europe combined, must rest in depression and despair until England shall be generous enough to give the signal of relief by graciously permitting Americans to enlarge their money basis. And this act of benevolence is to be performed only when England concludes to present to the rest of the world the trifling sum of \$500,000,000 a year, which represents the profits which accrue to Great Britain's votes. He falls to say what Voorhees did | ruling class as the result of the demonetization of silver. When will England get ready to perform this extraordinary feat of international benevolence? Some of our tory friends pretend not to know, but we know the exact day. On the day that the czar of Russia abdicates in favor af a democratic government-on the day that Emperor William leads a mob of anarchists in the streets of Berlin-on that day England will consent to the remonetization of silver.

WILLIE WHITE, a notoriously bad boy has been sentenced to the Reform school at that institution it is about the poorest place a boy could be sent for reformation. The penitentiary would be better. In that institution he would probably not grow any worse at least. So much can hardly be promised for the "Reform" school under its present management. The example set by the superintendent is far from having a tendency to elevate the moral tone of any one with whom he quite willing to rest its claim to fame on | comes in contact. Superintendent Hitchcock himself should be sent to some kind of a reformatory for a while if it is determined to retain him in his present position in defiance of public sentiment and decency.

> THE Lyon county Republican convention would not endorse woman suffrage declaring it not a partisun question. Many other conventions have taken the same cowardly attitude. Things seem to be coming to the pass that if a political party is asked to espouse a sound, righteous principle, it trembles and shivers with fear as if confronted by some hid-

> THE discovery of a large amount of counterfeit money in this city calls to mind the old problem: who would have been the loser if Turner had succeeded in "shoving" his goods and its spurious character had not been detected? He would have been richer, but at whose ex-

> > Amusements.

The educated ponies and dogs that will give exhibitions under their mammoth tent in this city on Quincy street near Sixth, next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28, 29 and 30, and matinee Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. Too much can hardly be said in praise of these highly trained animals, the exhibition that they give is so unlike other entertainments given by educated horses or dogs. There is not one dull moment on the program, nothing that is monotonous. It is comedy from start to finish; it is high-class amusement and strictly moral. Prof. Gentry has spent years of time and la-bor in designing the most attractive way of exhibiting their intelligence. No one in the city should miss this grand opportunity. Prices are within reach of all. Children 10 cents, adults 20 cents.

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Kansas Turnfest celebration, June 3d and 4th, at Turners Garden. Bids for the restaurant privileges for this great occasion, will be received up to May 23, by Dr. Klemp, secretary, at No. 311 Quincy

CENTRAL PARK WORK

HOW NEW YORK'S GREAT PLEASURE GROUND IS MAINTAINED.

The Experience and Sentiments of a Remarkable Landscape Gardener-Something About Ornamental Trees, Flower Beds and Shrubs.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, May 19 .- It takes about 300 men an the working hours of the rather more than 300 secular days of the year to keep up the beauty of Central park, the biggest pleasure ground of the biggest city in America. These men are directed by Superintendent Parsons of the New York park department, who finds that his duties have a tendency to absorb all his waking hours, including many that should be given over to sleep.

Central park contains about 840 acres, of which about 400 are covered with rising of 500,000 trees, most of them planted since 1857, the year of the park's opening. There are larger parks



ably none to the beautifying of which more money or more intelligent care has been devoted. Though Superintendent Parsons is obliged to give much attention to the many smaller parks, by far the greater portion of his time is taken up in the care of this magnificent area of sward and grove, of shaded walks and pleasant driveways, of picturesque arbors and burnished water sheets.

The Force Employed. "It is almost impossible," he said to me the other day, "to separate the work done in Central park entirely from that performed in the other parks and squares, but there are employed for what we term general maintenance purposes in Central park-that is, making and keeping it beautiful-about 200 laborers, 44 drivers, 30 gardeners, 15 carpenters and 10 skilled workmen. These are the average figures. They change from time to time, of course, and this year are a little in excess of the usual number, though but slightly. A million dollars, it will be remembered, were appropriated to be expended in the parks so that work could be given to some of the unemployed of this city. This million has been used principally for new works, the general maintenance expenses being about the same as usual."

One of the most important and difficult of all the tasks that have fallen to the superintendent of parks has been to produce and maintain a smooth, even, velvety turf. That is one of the things they can do much better in England than here, but it is not the fault of American gardeners. It is rather the fault of the American climate. There is more moisture in the air in England than here, and there are not nearly so many sudden changes from very wet to very dry. A prolonged sod killing drought is almost entirely unknown there, whereas it may be looked for here almost every year, there being very few localities in the United States were a smooth, green turf can be maintained without artificial watering. Central park is one of the hardest of tracts on which to maintain good turf, for in addition to the scorching dryness which is felt there in summer as elsewhere in this country the soil is deficient in natural richness, and much of it is very shallow, rock being found at a depth of from one to three feet under several considerable areas of carefully tended turf. Many experiments with many varieties of grasses have been patiently made, and many more will be made until the very best possible variety has been discovered and the very best quality of turf attainable produced. But, no matter how intelligent the care or how hardy and admirable the variety of grass, nothing will keep the turf in good order but plenty of judicious artificial watering during dry seasons.

Practical Botany. This careful watering has to be extended, of course, to the flowers, of which great quantities are grown within the confines of Central park. In truth, it may be said that Mr. Parsons' chief concern during the season of flowers is their arrangement and cultivation. Although he has the assistance of some of the most competent gardeners in the country, he has found it necessary himself thoroughly to master the science of botany in a practical way. This does not mean that he has devoted a great deal of time and quantities of gray matter to the propagation of hybrids and other floral freaks and prodigies, for that is just the thing not to do in his case. It is required of him that for the money placed at his disposal to be devoted to flower raising the people shall be furnished with the greatest possible

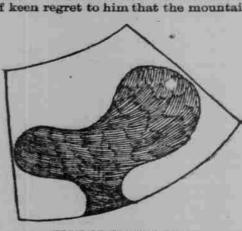
amount of floral beauty. "My experience has taught me," he said the other day, "that the number of elements in any pleasing prospect is surprisingly small, and I have directed almost all the energies of the park gardeners, in accordance with that truth, to the production of, comparatively speaking, a very few varieties of standard flowers. Those used most by us early in the seeson are tulips and pansies and geraniums and daisies, of which we plant enormous quantities. We also use in great profusion plants that are valuable because of the decorative qualities of their foliage. A great deal of care is expended also upon the designing of our flower beds and borders, and while we seek to obtain symmetrical forms to a certain degree we make it a point to avoid as far as possible all stiff-ness and conventionality. That is why in laying out a circular bed we do not adopt concentric circles of various hued flowers, but rather arrange the belts of blooms eccentrically," and Mr. Parsons sketched in my notebook a figure or two which I have reproduced here to illustrate what he meant. The first figure shows his idea of the treatment of a circular bed planted with tulips, and the second one the arrangement of flowers in a segment of the big circle around the Union square fountain, not located in Central park, to be sure, but which receives a good deal of his attention and in the season is one of the most beautiful floral displays known. It will be seen that, though the designs are made according to well conceived plans, they do not in any degree possess the ab-horred qualities of stiffness and formal-

Much attention is also given to the maintenance of ponds and lakes and water plants. All of the latter that are extensively cultivated in Central park are either lilies or lotuses, lotuses largely predominating. It was interesting to me to know that while some American varieties of the lotus are cultivated successfully and effectively here the true oriental lotus is found to be best fitted for the conditions that obtain in the fountains and lakes of the park system of New York. It was for a long time supposed that this plant was of so tender a nature as to make it necessary to house it during the cold months in this latitude.

One winter, however, a large number of the eastern lotus plants growing in a small pond were forgotten. The next year, greatly to the surprise of every one, they grew with greater luxuriance than ever. Every year since they have increased in strength and number, and it is more than likely that within two or three years they will completely choke the little lake at the bottom of which they are rooted. It may not be generally known that, although this variety of the lotus is undoubtedly identical with the plant held in such great esteem by the ancient Egyptians, it is now rarely seen in the land of the lower Nile. It flourishes best in India and

The arbors of Central park have always been an important and pleasing feature of the place. The wistaria lends itself admirably to the decoration of arbors, and Mr. Parsons believes that the purple flowered vine will this year be seen to better advantage than ever before. He also expects unusual effect this year in wild flowers, which, scattered here and there upon the brilliant green of the well kept turf, so delight the eyes of visitors, whether New Yorkers or from out of town. It is not suspected probably by a tithe of those whose sense of beauty and the fitness of things is ministered to by the presence of these modest blooms that they were not planted by the hand of nature, but are the result of Mr. Parsons' taste and palarkspurs and the hardy, old fashioned plants that our grandmothers loved so well and called everlastings. These thrive in stony soils, and Mr. Parsons has caused a certain ridge of rock near One Hundred and Third street to be almost covered with them, the effect being very charming indeed. The magnificent pathway that is so popular a place of resort in the center of the park and is known as the Mall will also be more beautiful than ever the coming summer. There will be more fountains, every piece of ironwork and woodwork is being freshly painted, and there will be a greater profusion of roses in the vases that line its spacious vistas than ever before.

Ornamental Shrubs. The selection and cultivation of ornamental trees and shrubs are an important factor in the making and preservation of the beauty of Central park, and Mr. Parsons has taken great pains to place here and there such growths as bear ornamental fruit, like the mountain ash, divers varieties of the snewdrop, etc., and the brilliant bobbed sumac. It is a matter of keen regret to him that the mountain

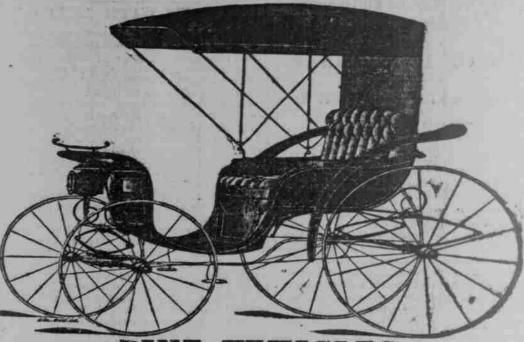


ash does not do as well in Central park as in some other localities. It seems to be especially liable there to attacks from those insects that are its enemies, and its general growth is not so vigorous as could be wished. The laborers employed in Central park are divided into seven gangs, each one being under the direction of a section boss whose duty it is to see that the turf, the walks and roadways in his section are kept in order. Working in connection with each of these gangs of men are two gardeners, but they are directed in their work by a general head gardener and are liable at any time to be temporarily transferred from the section to which they are attached to some other section where they may be more needed for the time being. The carpenters work together or separately, according to circumstances, but independently of the section gangs. It is the duty of the man who has them in charge to see that the various buildings, of which there are about 40 in the park, and the arbors and the benches are kept in repair. In winter a great deal of work is done in the park greenhouses, and practically all the men spoken of are kept busy the year round.

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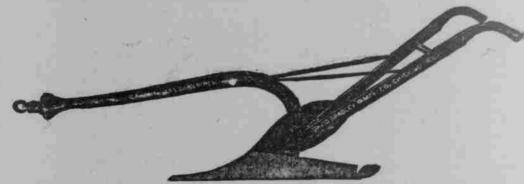
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